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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 6, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 1 totaled an estimated 18.2 billion ton-miles, 3.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 31 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 539.2 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 1 totaled 436,118 cars, 1.7 percent above 1980, and 1.3 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 12.3 percent in the East, and 0.5 percent in the South, but down 3.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings showed an increase of 15,821 cars, or 14.0 percent, metallic ores were up 10,010 cars, or 35.8 percent, loadings of coke registered a 46.8 percent increase, and motor vehicles and equipment, were up 26.0 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended July 25 totaled 32,202 cars, up 6.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 57,790 trailers and/or containers, up 2.6 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 30 weeks of the year was 969,861 cars, 0.7 percent higher than last year, and 1,748,544 trailers and/or containers, down 0.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/1/81:

	Loadings in Week ended August 1, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,922	D	12,271	34.9	I	1,638	7.7
Other farm products	3,176	D	1,044	24.7	I	73	2.4
Metallic ores	37,991	I	10,010	35.8	I	1,061	2.9
Coal	128,728	I	15,821	14.0	I	1,590	1.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,463	D	1,350	9.1	I	1	0.0
Nonmetallic minerals	14,226	D	683	4.6	D	263	1.8
Grain mill products	14,061	D	2,410	14.6	I	94	0.7
Food and kindred products	15,378	D	2,835	15.6	I	123	0.8
Primary forest products	18,676	D	1,571	7.8	I	374	2.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,459	D	874	9.4	I	218	2.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,434	D	1,162	5.6	I	369	1.9
Chemicals and allied products	24,403	D	237	1.0	D	316	1.3
Petroleum products	4,909	D	309	5.9	D	209	4.1
Stone, clay and glass products	14,189	D	1,113	7.3	I	323	2.3
Coke	5,899	I	1,881	46.8	D	321	5.2
Metals and products	15,415	I	693	4.7	I	625	4.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,824	I	2,650	26.0	D	502	3.8
Waste and scrap materials	10,402	I	400	4.0	D	544	5.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,697	D	780	7.4	I	372	4.0
All other carloads	41,672	I	2,553	6.5	I	1,002	2.5
LCL traffic	194	D	6	3.0	I	13	7.2
Total Cars Loaded	436,118	I	7,363	1.7	I	5,721	1.3
Corresponding week of 1980	428,755						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (31 weeks)	12,855,037	13,455,939	D	4.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
30 Weeks cumulative	521.0	524.2	D	0.6
Week ended August 1	18.2	17.6	I	3.3
31 Weeks cumulative	539.2	541.8	D	0.5

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